

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday 9/24/2020, 5:00-6:30pm

Attending: Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Carole Collins, Phil Elmer, Marlo Warner, Hannah Rechtschaffen, MJ Adams, Jay Lord, Mike Pattavina **Absent:** Jacob Frank, Tara Kurland **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato **Guests:** Lindsay Rowe

Hannah asked George to facilitate the meeting and he accepted and he will do so at future meetings as well.

Introductions/Updates- with role of committee member noted

- **MJ Adams**, Director of Community and Economic Development filling the seat for the Department of Planning & Development – She is continuing to grapple with the homeless as we move into cooler weather.
- **Phil Elmer**, City Council representative – Participated in Green River Clean-up with neighbors in Highland Park.
- **Nancy Hazard**, At Large member – Excited about:
 - FRCOG a 5-year grant to focus on housing called Franklin County/North Quabbin Housing Access Program Goals: Better serve those in need; community outreach & advocacy; and rehab abandoned properties into useful housing.
 - Compost Cooperative expanding! Seeking funds from the community to help them purchase a building that could house coop members in need of housing.
- **Jay Lord**, At Large member. No report
- **Mike Pattavina**, At Large member – He has been working on coordinating Green River Cleanup, which is part of the Connecticut River Conservancy’s annual Source to Sea effort. It has been going well! He recently clean up French King Highway with a friend...it took 2 ½ hours! FYI – While this is a month-long “individualized” effort this year, this Saturday, 26th, there will be a gathering at the Green River Swimming area.
- **Hannah Rechtschaffen**, At Large member, and SGIC chair - Attended a conference in New Hampshire on rural communities. It was amazing! She plans to bring some of the issues and ideas to SGIC in the future.
- **Marlo Warner**, fills DPW seat, he is the director. - 29 DPW projects listed in his recent report to the Mayor. Key projects of interest to SGIC include:
 - Fiske Ave retaining wall-Bids are in and look good. The job will take 1 week
 - Green River Cleanup – DPW has been supporting the effort with trash pick-up. Because it is happening over a month, rather than 1 day, weighing the trash is not possible this year.
 - Anaerobic digester- continuing to explore options. Some look promising!
 - Main St upgrade project – Boston has moved FAST and responding to Phase A. He will bring Phase B&C (engineering & design) to SGIC for discussion after he knows more about the City budget (this part the City needs to pay for.)
- **Carole Collins**, Director of Energy & Sustainability Department- representative of that Department.
 - Solar project on well field is under construction!
 - Police station – new heating systems being installed!
 - Library project – recently met with architect. Working hard to ensure the shell is built in such a way that zero-net energy is possible! She is pushing for the building to reach a target Energy Intensity of 25 kBtu/sqft/yr. It will be an all-electric zero-carbon emitting building.
 - Big picture- Recently she assessed progress on reducing energy use in all Greenfield buildings and it is fabulous!

- Her target for existing buildings is 40 kBTU/sqft/yr. SIX buildings now meet that target!
- There are another 7 buildings that are between 40-50 kBTU/sqft/yr!
- There are only two buildings that use over 100: Police station + Transfer station.
- One huge success was the City Hall. Last year the heating system was upgraded to use air source heat pumps rather than gas. It used to use 48 kBTU/sqft/yr, now it uses 38 kBTU/sqft/yr! And it is all electric so also a zero carbon emitting building!! Our ultimate goal.
- Energy use of the new John Zon center and the new DPW buildings use 30-32 kBTU/sqft/yr. PV will soon be installed on the JZ center to make that building a zero-net energy building.
 - MVP- Carole sits on the advisory committee. She is sorry she cannot stay for discussion.
- **George Touloumtzis**, Planning Board representative – The Planning Board is discussing Low Impact Development (LID)/Green Infrastructure. They are reviewing documents that FRCOG drew up working with Eric Twarog, Director of Planning and Development, and others of how to integrate LID into Greenfield's regulations. A) LID zoning ordinance, which will go to the City Council for final approval, and b) subdivision regulations that the Planning Board will approve/disapprove. These documents will be discussed again at the next Planning Board meeting, Oct 1, 6pm.

ACTIONS:

- Committee members expressed an interest in
 - Hearing more details about Carole's work at a future SGIC meeting.
 - Having LID/Green Infrastructure documents George mentioned posted or pointed to on the web.

Carole and Marlo left at 5:30pm

Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Hannah made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by MJ. One friendly amendment was suggested. Motion passed unanimously as amended.

Youth Commission

George wanted to highlight that re-instating the Youth Commission was an important strategy in the Public facilities/services chapter of the Master Plan, and wanted to recognize that this goal has been partially accomplished, since the Commission has been re-instated, but is not active currently. MJ has checked in with Penny Ricketts, the current chair of the Commission and Penny is excited to ramp things up and is thankful for SGIC support. MJ will invite her to our next meeting.

Community Preservation Act (CPA)

CPA adoption will be up for a vote in the November election. Adopting this is recommended in the Master Plan. The CPA allows the city to collect a small property tax surcharge to create a fund for projects related to historic preservation, open space and recreation, and affordable housing. The council approved this for a ballot vote before the pandemic hit. There are concerns that it is a bad time to have it on the ballot due to current economic challenges, and a short time-frame available for public education. Nancy would like to find out if it is possible to take it off the ballot. There was discussion of who might be able to champion outreach. Some suggestions were Otis Wheeler, Jamie Pottern and Ginny Desorgher. Phil offered to draft a letter/article for the Recorder and take the lead on publicity. Phil will also check on what the ramifications are if it does not pass.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP)

Nancy and Carole are on the MVP advisory committee and wanted input from the SGIC to fill out a survey as part of the MVP planning process. Questions and responses are summarized below.

How have extreme weather events affected Greenfield? Most committee members felt they have had a moderate effect on Greenfield

Which hazards have affected Greenfield the most? flooding, drought, severe wind, invasive species, ice storms, pond eutrophication, income inequality, and urban flight

Which aspects of the City are most vulnerable to hazards? Vulnerable populations, agriculture, flood plains, utility infrastructure, trees/forests

Which aspects of the City are the most resilient to hazards? Rivers, forests, people

What actions/projects would you like to see the Town undertake? Mitigate effects of inequality/make sure there are choices for those affected by climate change. Bike paths and greenways, underground power lines, PV and batteries, green infrastructure.

Nancy and Mike will draft a letter to summarize the SGIC recommendations in preparation for a public meeting. They will send out a word document for input (or could use a google doc if shared with fewer than 6 committee members)

Announcements:

- FRCOG has received grant money for a pollinator corridor plan
- Small Homes, Big Movement: An Online Event- October 15th, 6pm
- Planning Board will be discussing LID Zoning Ordinance at their next meeting on October 1st, 6pm

Next Meeting – October 22, 5:00-6:30 pm via Zoom.

Adjourned at 6:19 pm